

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-6 Building Date: 1911

Building Name: Herbert Sansbury House

Location: 13021 7th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Herbert Sansbury House is a two-story square frame building which is distinguished by an oriel window and a two-story veranda at the rear. The building is three bays by two bays, with pyramidal roof, and fronts directly on one of the original streets of Huntington City (now known as Bowie). Across the principal north facade is a one-story hip-roof porch with Tuscan columns. The building is sheathed with German siding painted white and has a foundation is of poured concrete. The cornice is boxed, and has deeply overhanging eaves. The west facade of the house is ornamented with an oriel window which lights the staircase. The three-bay south facade is sheltered by a two-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. The easterly half of the second-story porch has been enclosed, creating an additional room. The remaining portion of the second-story porch (the west half) is bounded by a railing of plain square balusters, while the entire first story porch has a railing of horizontal boards.

Significance

The Herbert Sansbury House is now the Rectory of St. James Episcopal Chapel in Bowie. It is a particularly good example of the American four-square (Classic Box) house plan, distinguished from similar models by an oriel window and a two story veranda on the rear. The Sansbury family settled in Huntington in 1874; Richard H. Sansbury worked for the U.S. Post Office, and in that year brought his family to live in the newly established railroad town. His son, R. Herbert Sansbury, Jr., became an engineer for the Railroad, married circa 1900, and in 1911 built the subject house. The new house was typical of the square hip-roof dwellings which were popular early in this century. Herbert Sansbury died in 1940, and his widow continued to live in the house. Nearly a quarter century later, she sold the house (and the twelve lots on which it stood) to the Episcopal Church; the house became the Rectory for the Vicar of St. James Chapel. It is a good and visible example of the "Classic Box" style of early twentieth century dwelling.

Acreage: 12,500 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Herbert Sansbury House

and/or common St. James Rectory

2. Location

street & number 13021 7th Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bowie ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Convention of Protestant Episcopal Church, Washington Diocese

street & number Mount St. Alban telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20016

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #3067

street & number Main Street folio 490

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-6

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Herbert Sansbury House is a two-story square frame building which is distinguished by an oriel window and a two-story verandah at the rear. The building is three bays by two bays, with pyramidal roof, and fronts directly on one of the original streets of Huntington City (now known as Bowie). It serves as the Rectory of St. James Chapel.

The principal facade faces north onto 7th Street. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay north facade, through a door with three-pane transom, and single pane sidelights over wainscot panels. The dark wooden door has six panels; its casing is of plain board.

Across the principal north facade is a one-story hip-roof porch with Tuscan columns; the porch rests on concrete piers. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters.

The building is sheathed with German siding painted white. The foundation is of poured concrete and encloses a basement under the north section of the house. The pyramidal roof is covered with gray shingle. A tall brick chimney rises from the east plane of the roof between the two bays. The cornice is boxed, and has deeply overhanging eaves.

The west facade of the house is ornamented with an oriel window which lights the staircase, between the two bays, and between first and second stories. Each of the three faces of the oriel window is lighted by a narrow 1/1 window.

The three-bay rear (south) facade is sheltered by a two-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. The porch is supported on concrete piers. A flight of wooden steps leads to an entrance in the first bay. The easterly half of the second-story porch has been enclosed, creating an additional room; this addition is sheathed with vertical-channelled siding. The remaining portion of the second-story porch (the west half) is bounded by a railing of plain square balusters, while the entire first story porch has a railing of horizontal boards.

The Rectory stands on a spacious sloping lot. Entrance from the street is through two gateposts of molded concrete block. There are no outbuildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-6

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Herbert Sansbury House is now the Rectory of St. James Episcopal Chapel in Bowie. It is a particularly good example of the American four-square (Classic Box) house plan, distinguished by an oriel window and a two story verandah on the rear.

The Sansbury family settled in Huntington (now Bowie) in 1874. Richard H. Sansbury worked for the U.S. Post Office, and in that year brought his family to live in the newly established railroad town. Sansbury was instrumental in the establishment of the Bowie Methodist Church; his son, R. Herbert Sansbury, Jr., became an engineer for the Railroad, married circa 1900, and in 1911 built the subject house.¹ The new house was typical of the square hip-roof dwellings which were popular early in this century. The Sansbury home was distinguished from similar models by the oriel window which lights the side staircase, and the two-story verandah across the rear facade.

Herbert Sansbury died in 1940, and his widow continued to live in the house. Nearly a quarter century later, she sold the house (and the twelve lots on which it stood) to the Episcopal Church. The twelve lots fronted on both 7th and 8th Streets and adjoined the property of Saint James Episcopal Chapel. On them stood not only the dwelling, which fronted on 7th Street, but also a garage, closer to 8th Street. The garage was renovated and put to use for church activities; the dwelling became the Rectory for the Vicar of St. James Chapel.²

Soon after its renovation, the garage structure was destroyed by fire; it has been replaced by a concrete block Sunday School building known as Cornelius Hall. The Rectory (the Herbert Sansbury house) has been well maintained and stands today as a good and visible example of the "Classic Box" style of early twentieth century dwelling.

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10. Geographical Data

Tax Map #29, Block 16

FOIA 29-33

29-33
Quadrangle scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

B

Zone Easting Northing

[illegible]

F

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization	Prince George's Historic Preservation Commission	date	August 1986
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street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8 (Continued)

Notes

1 Census for Prince George's County 14th District, 1880, 1900, 1910; "Methodist Church History", The Bowie Register, 8 November 1934; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1900-1916; Prince George's County Deeds #70:265,266; #38:223.

2 Prince George's County Deed #3067:490; interviews with St. James Chapel historian, 1986.

WILLIAM T
HUBBERT
5373 / 083
4-80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-15

CONFIDENTIAL

71B-148

7FB-2-2

R-55

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

485
R-R
SMC

I-1

NEW JERSEY
STEEL CORP.
5545/680

NANCY BROWN
4182/813

$$R = R$$

71B-12

71B-11

PG:71B-2-6



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1986

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1986

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD